

U.S. WATCH

◆ WASHINGTON, D.C.

Democrats Release Papers Related to Lawyer Firings

House Democrats turned over to federal prosecutors thousands of investigative documents Tuesday, alleging they are evidence of impropriety by Karl Rove and other Bush White House officials in the controversial 2006 firing of nine U.S. attorneys.

It remains far from certain whether the 5,400 pages of emails and other documents released Tuesday contain information that would help prosecutors bring criminal charges against Mr. Rove, who served as former President George W. Bush's political adviser, or against any other former Bush officials.

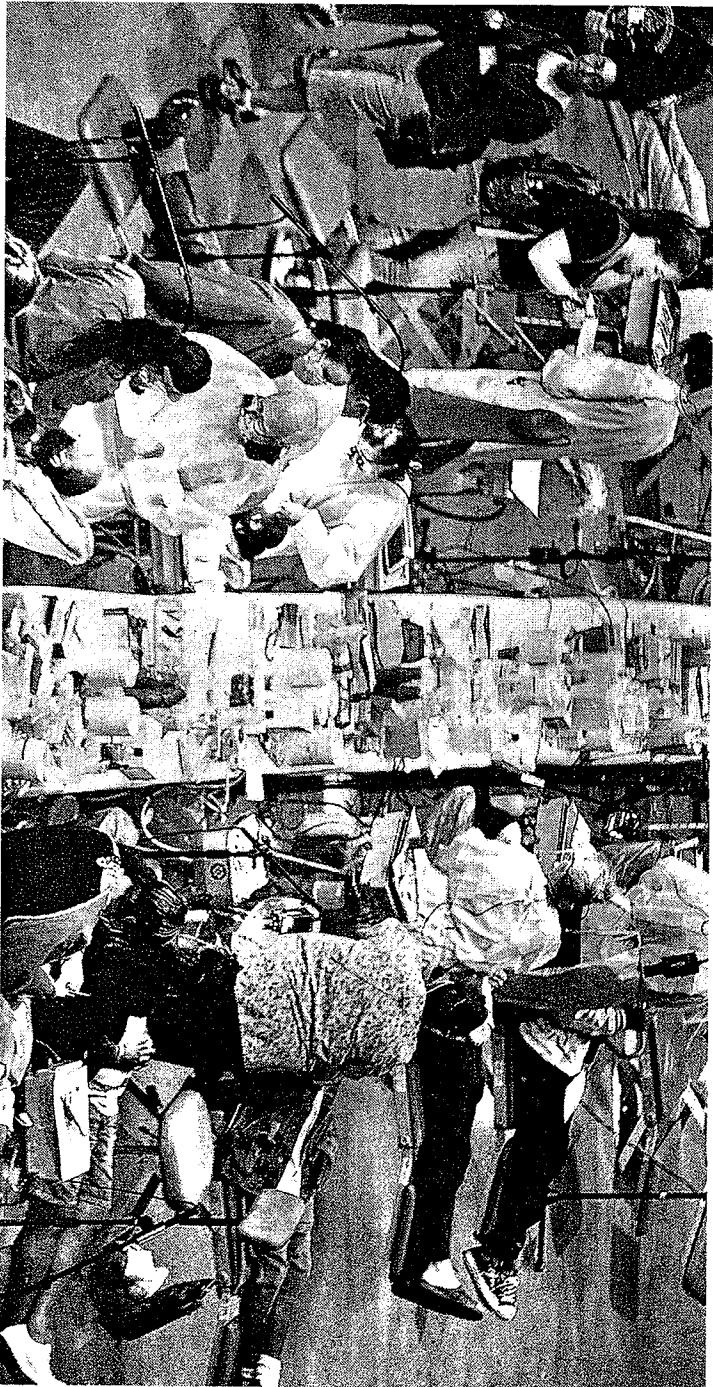
The documents, including 700 pages of interviews with Mr. Rove and other former senior Bush aides, provided a few new nuggets of information on the prosecutor firings, which led to allegations of political meddling at the Justice Department and the resignation of Alberto Gonzales as attorney general.

Mr. Rove said he welcomed the release of the documents. "They show politics played no role in the Bush administration's removal of U.S. attorneys, that I never sought to influence the conduct of any prosecution, and that I played no role in deciding which U.S. attorneys were retained and which replaced," he said.

A White House spokesman and a Justice Department spokeswoman declined to comment.

Evan Perez

Getty Images



Patients receive dental care Tuesday during the first day of a weeklong free health clinic at the Forum in Inglewood, Calif. The organizer, nonprofit group Remote Area Medical, said it can serve 1,500 people a day. Hundreds of doctors, dentists, optometrists and nurses volunteered their services.

◆ KENTUCKY

Paper Says Louisville Coach Admitted Sex in 2003 Case

University of Louisville men's basketball coach Rick Pitino told police he had sex and paid for an abortion for the woman accused of trying to extort him for \$10 million, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Courier-Journal of Louisville reported on its Web site that Mr. Pitino, who also coached the NBA's New York Knicks and Boston Celtics, told police he had been drinking in

a Louisville restaurant and had sex with the woman in August 2003. The police report said he denied allegations by the woman that he raped her after the restaurant closed and at another time somewhere else. He said later he gave her \$3,000 for an abortion.

The woman went to police to report the rape allegations last month. A Kentucky prosecutor said the complaint she filed with a police sex-offense unit wouldn't be prosecuted because it lacked supporting evidence.

She has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of trying to extort money up to \$10 million from Mr. Pitino and lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Pitino's lawyer, Steve Pence, said the story is about the woman and not his client.

"The commonwealth's attorney has said she is void of any credibility on these 6-year-old allegations she has made," Mr. Pence said.

University sports information director Kenny Klein said Mr. Pitino was in his office on

Tuesday, but directed all inquiries to Mr. Pence.

The newspaper cited Louisville Metro Police reports obtained under the Kentucky Open Records Act.

Associated Press

◆ FLORIDA

Colombian Drug Kingpin Pleads Guilty in Miami

The boss of a Colombian cocaine cartel that smuggled some \$10 billion of cocaine into the U.S. pleaded guilty in Miami on Tuesday to drug

charges that will see him in prison for at least 11 years. Diego "Don Diego" Sanchez pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to import cocaine and to obstruct justice. He faces a 15-year sentence, but a judge will recommend he serve half in prison.

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◆ TEXAS

U.S. Soldier Accuse Of Mexican Cartel

An 18-year-old U.S. soldier was the trigger for a paid hit on a Mexican cartel figure who was informant for the U.S. forensic agency, police said Tuesday in announcing the arrest of the soldier's alleged co-conspirator.

Pfc. Michael Jack Dacca, who was based near El Paso, Texas, was arrested by police investigators fired the shots in the slaying of Jose Daniel Galeana, police said. The newspaper cited charging documents, Gonzalez, a lieutenant in the drug cartel, was arrested outside his home.

Pfc. Apodaca, Clint Duran, 17, and Ruben Riquelme Dorado, 30, were arrested Monday and charged with capital murder in connection with the slaying. Gonzalez's slaying, he was held on \$1 million bond. It wasn't clear if the retained lawyers.

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Corrections 3 Amplifications

The Pritzker family sold a majority stake in Marmon Holdings Inc. to Berkshire Hath-

away. The change was from the same period last year.

Media brief incorrectly said the petition sought Mr. Clifford's departure.

Judge Jed S. Rakoff in Money & Investing se